

Amendments to the Specification:

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on line <sup>9</sup>7 of page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

In this specification, assertions and breakpoints will be referred to collectively as checkpoints. Checkpoints are typically defined by statements in a program. A checkpoint can be made a member of a checkpoint group[[,]] by associating a checkpoint group name with the checkpoint. In source code, this can be done by providing for an optional argument to a checkpoint statement that names the checkpoint group. A checkpoint that can be activated, by activating a checkpoint group, for example, will be referred to as an “activatable” checkpoint. The selection of which checkpoint group a given checkpoint will belong to, if any, can be made independently of the location of the checkpoint, so that the structure of checkpoint groups is independent of the structure of the program code.